

REMARKS

The Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Jamal for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 1-12, 19, and 22. The Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's careful review of this application.

Upon entry of this amendment, allowable dependent Claim 19 has been cancelled and its allowable subject matter has been incorporated into independent Claim 13. Allowed dependent Claim 22 has been made into an independent claim. New Claims 24-30 that are dependent on allowed Claim 22 have been added to further define the invention. Therefore, Claims 1-18 and 20-30 remain pending in this application. The Examiner has rejected Claims 13-18, 20, and 21.

The four independent claims of this application are Claims 1, 10, 13, and 22. Consideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments to the application and in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 13-18, and 21 under 35 § U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,424,656 issued in the name of Hoebeke (hereinafter, the "Hoebeke reference").

The Applicants respectfully offer arguments to traverse these rejections. Because the Applicants have cancelled allowed dependent Claim 19 and have inserted its allowable subject matter into independent Claim 13, the Examiner's rejection has been rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection are respectfully requested. Further, an early notice of allowance of this patent application is also respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicants are also submitting an information disclosure statement (IDS) and a PTO-1449 form with this response. The Applicants have authorized the Commissioner to charge the deposit account of the undersigned for the requisite fee of this IDS submission. The citation of this information does not constitute an admission of priority or that any cited item is available as a reference, or a waiver of any right the applicant may have under applicable statutes, Rules of Practice in patent cases, or otherwise. Consideration and an initialed copy of the attached PTO-1449 from the Examiner are respectfully requested.

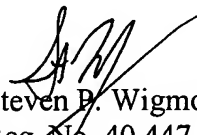
CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed on August 9, 2005. The Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Fox for the consideration of these remarks. The Applicants have submitted remarks to traverse the pending rejections. The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such Action is hereby courteously solicited.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § § 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0980 for this submission or any future submissions.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 404.572.2884.

Respectfully submitted,


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